

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

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R 211300Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

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AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT,PO, DA

SUBJ: SOARES INTERVIEW IN COPENHAGEN

SUMMARY: IN COPENHAGEN INTERVIEW DIRECTED PRIMARILY AT PORTUGUESE DOMESTIC AUDIENCE, SOCIALIST LEADER MARIO SOARES COMMENTED ON SUCH TOPICS AS: AFM-PARTIES PACT; PRESIDENTIAL SELECTION; WHO WAS TO BLAME FOR CURRENT ECONOMIC PROBLEMS: AID FROM WEST; AND THE AZORES. SEVERAL OF THESE SUBJECTS WILL BE HIGH ON SOARE'S AGENDA FOR DISCUSSIONS IN WASHINGTON JANUARY 26-28. END SUMMARY.

1. IN COPENHAGEN INTERVIEW WITH OFFICIAL PORTUGUESE NEWS

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AGENCY (ANOP) CORRESPONDENT, CARRIED IN JAN 20 "DIARIO DE NOTICIAS"

SOCIALIST PARTY (PS) LEADER MARIO SOARES MADE FOLLOWING COMMENTS:

--COPENHAGEN MEETING: ASIDE FROM FORMAL AGENDA, MEETING WAS SUEFUL VEHICLE FOR RAISING IMPORTANT BILATERAL ISSUES, SPECIFICALLY TEXTILE PROBLEMS WITH GREAT BRITAIN AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE WITH WEST GERMANY.

--AFM-PARTIES PACT: PS DID NOT AGREE WITH REVISIONS SUGGESTED BY REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL (RC). PROPOSAL PRESENTED IN NAME OF RC DID NOT APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED IN DETAIL BY RC MEMBERS. APPROPRIATE ROLE OF RC WAS AS CONSULTATIVE ORGAN TO PRESIDENT, WITHOUT AUTHORITY TO IMPOSE ITS WILL ON PRESIDENT. PRESIDENT, AS ELECTED OFFICIAL, WOULD POSSESS A LEGITIMACY WHICH APPOINTIVE RC DID NOT HAVE. RC SHOULD CONFINE SELF TO BEING GUARDIAN OF CONSTITUTIONAL LIBERTY AND GUARANTOR OF NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE.

--SELECTION OF PRESIDENT: SOCIALISTS HAD NOT YET TAKEN FORMAL POSITION ON QUESTION OF WHETHER NEXT PRESIDENT SHOULD BE A CIVILIAN OR A MILITARY MAN. PS WAS ONLY ON RECORD THUS FAR AS SUPPORTING DIRECT ELECTION OF PRESIDENT THROUGH UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE. BUT A CURRENT EXISTED WITHIN PARTY WHICH SUPPORTED A MILITARY CANDIDACY. IF THERE WERE A MILITARY CANDIDATE, MILITARY ITSELF WOULD HAVE TO REACH AGREEMENT ON SELECTION. PS, HOWEVER, WOULD BE FREE TO SUPPORT OR OPPOSE CANDIDATE.

--ELECTORAL STRENGTH: IF PS WON SAME PERCENTAGE (38PLUS) IN UPCOMING ELECTIONS AS IT DID IN APRIL 1975 CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS, RESULT WOULD BE CONSIDERED EXCELLENT. ALTHOUGH CENTER IN PORTUGAL TENDED TO VOTE TO THE RIGHT, PS HAD CAPABILITY TO MAINTAIN OR IMPROVE ITS ELECTORAL POSTION. PS REMAINED ONLY TRULY NATIONAL PARTY; IT MAINTAINED PRIVILEGED POSITION AS PORTUGUESE SPOKESMAN TO EUROPE.

--RESPONSIBILITY FOR ECONOMIC PROBLEMS: OFFICIALS OF FOURTH AND FIFTH GOVERNMENTS SELECTED BY FORMER PRIME MINISTER VASCO GONCALVES--MOSTLY COMMUNISTS AND FELLOW TRAVELLING PORTUGUESE DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT--WERE PRIMARILY TO BLAME FOR PORTUGAL'S CURRENT ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES.
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--AID AFROM WEST: POLITICAL STABILITY IN WESTERN EUROPE HAD BEEN REESTABLISHED FOLLOWING SECOND WORLD WAR LARGELY THROUGH MARSHALL PLAN ASSISTANCE. PORTUGAL CURRENTLY REQUIRED ECONOMIC STABILITY TO ENABLE DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS TO FUNCTION. WITHOUT FOREIGN ECONOMIC AID, PORTUGAL COULD FALL VICTIM TO SOCIAL AGITATION WHICH WOULD PROVIDE FERTILE GROUND FOR THE RIGHT TO RECAPTURE POWER. PORTUGAL REMAINED EUROPEAN COUNTRY WITH A GEOPOLITI-

CAL POSITION OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO WESTERN WORLD.
EVENTS IN PORTUGAL WILL HAVE
DIRECT REPERCUSSIONS NOT ONLY IN SPAIN BUT ELSEWHERE IN
EUROPE. SUCCESS OF DEMOCRACY IN PORTUGAL WILL BE DECISIVE
FACTOR IN CONSTRUCTION OF EUROPE OF THE FUTURE.

--ZIONISM RESOLUTION: PS, THROUGH CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY
DEPUTY, HAD FORMALLY ASKED FOREIGN MINISTRY FOR CLARIFICATION
OF GOP VOTE IN FAVOR OF RESOLUTION.

--AZORES: PLANNED VISIT TO AZORES ON RETURN TO LISBON
FROM U.S. WILL BE LOGICAL EXTENSION OF TALKS WITH PORTUGUESE
COMMUNITY IN U.S. SEPARATIST MOVEMENT IN ISLANDS WAS EXTREMELY
DANGEROUS THREAT TO VERY FOUNDATIONS OF PORTUGUESE NATIONALITY.
SEPARATIST MOVEMENT HAD BEEN ENCOURAGED BY RIGHT-WING WHICH
HAD CAPITALIZED ON WIDESPREAD FEAR THAT PORTUGAL WAS ON THE
BRINK OF ANARCHY AND COMMUNION. PORTUGAL WAS IN PROCESS OF
NATIONAL RECONSTRUCTION TO WHICH ALL PORTUGUESE, INCLUDING
THOSE FAR FROM HOMELAND, COULD CONTRIBUTE.

2. COMMENT: SOARES' REMARKS WERE DIRECTED PRIMARILY TO HIS
AUDIENCE IN PORTUGAL. HOWEVER, SEVERAL OF THE TOPICS COVERED--
E.G. AID, UPCOMING ELECTIONS, AZORES--WILL BE HIGH ON SOARES'S
AGENDA FOR HIS DISCUSSIONS IN THE U.S.
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